



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

117

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/528,314	11/14/2005	Hubertus Goesmann	14219-084US1 P2002,0810	4507
26161 7590 07/02/2007 FISH & RICHARDSON PC P.O. BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022			EXAMINER THOMAS, ERIC W	
			ART UNIT 2831	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/02/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/528,314

Applicant(s)

GOESMANN, HUBERTUS

Examiner

Eric Thomas

Art Unit

2831

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 March 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. A substitute specification in proper idiomatic English and in compliance with 37 CFR 1.52(a) and (b) is required. The substitute specification filed must be accompanied by a statement that it contains no new matter.
2. It is suggest to applicant to change the title to "Electrical component and an assembly including the component".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claims 11, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 11 is confusing. If the electrical connections of the first electrical component were connected to the electrical connections of the second electrical component using a single conductor, then all of the electrodes would be electrically connected together.

Claim 16 is confusing. Is the aluminum plated on the nickel surface? The specification does not specifically state that the aluminum is plated.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2831

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-7, 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Parker et al. (GB 1,465,096).

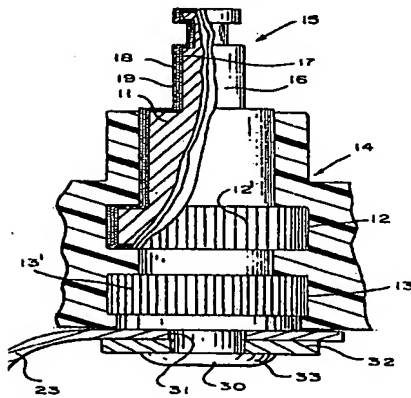


FIG. 1

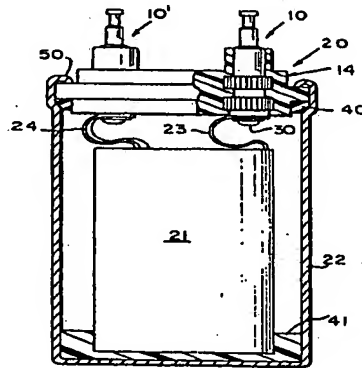


FIG. 2

Parker et al. disclose in fig. 1 and 2, an electrical component comprising an electrical connection (10) comprising aluminum (11) comprising a contact area that is solderable.

Regarding claim 2, Parker et al. disclose the contact area comprises a surface that is chemically plate with nickel (17, see page 2, col. 2 lines 95-100).

Regarding claim 3, Parker et al. disclose the contact area is plated with tin (19 – see page 2, col. 2 lines 110-120).

Regarding claim 4, Parker et al. disclose a surface of the contact area is uneven (upper portion).

Regarding claim 5, Parker et al. disclose an electrolytic capacitor comprising the electrical component of claim 1.

Regarding claim 6, Parker et al. disclose the electrical component can be used in any passive device. The limitation, "an electrochemical double layer capacitor comprising the electrical component of claim 1" is an intended use. It has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

Regarding claim 7, Parker et al. disclose the electrical component further comprises a chemically aggressive fluid.

Regarding claim 13, Parker et al. disclose an electrical component comprising a housing (22); and an electrical connection (10) that is partly within the housing, the electrical connection comprising aluminum and a layer of nickel (17) on top of the aluminum, the layer of nickel defining a contact area.

Regarding claim 14, Parker et al. disclose the layer of nickel comprises chemically plated nickel.

Regarding claim 15, Parker et al. disclose at least part of the electrical connection is curved.

Regarding claim 16, as best understood, comprises a surface of aluminum. The limitation, "plated with the aluminum" is a method of forming the device. The method of forming the device is not germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself.

Therefore, this limitation has not been given patentable weight. In re STEPHENS, WENZL, AND BROWNE, 145 USPQ 656 (CCPA 1965)

Regarding claim 17, Parker et al. disclose the electrical connection is solid aluminum.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 8-12, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parker et al. (GB 1,465,096) in view of Gross et al. (US 6,723,926).

Regarding claim 8, Parker et al. disclose the claimed invention except for the device comprising an electrical conductor, wherein the electrical connection is soldered to the electric conductor.

Gross et al. disclose in fig. 1, a device wherein the electrical connections of electrolytic capacitors can be soldered to electrical conductors of a printed circuit board.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to solder the electrical connections of Parker et al. to electrical conductors of a printed circuit board as taught by Gross et al., since such a modification would form a printed circuit board having electrolytic components comprising terminals with good solderability.

Regarding claim 9, Gross et al. teach that the device further comprises a second electrical component; wherein the electrical conductor is soldered to an electrical connection on the second electric component.

Regarding claim 10, Gross et al. teach that the electrical conductor is part of a printed circuit board.

Regarding claim 11, as best understood, Gross et al. teach that the electrical conductor comprises a single conductor with a low resistance (metal) that connects one of the electrical connections of the first electrical component to one electrical connections of the second electrical component.

Regarding claim 12, Gross et al. teach that the electrical conductor comprises a conductor plate.

Regarding claim 18, Parker et al. disclose an electrical component comprising a first electrical connection, the first electrical connection comprising aluminum and a first layer of nickel on top of the aluminum, the first layer of nickel comprising a first contact area.

Parker et al. disclose the claimed invention except for a second electrical component comprising a second electrical connection, the second electrical connection comprising aluminum and a second layer of nickel on top of the aluminum, the second layer of nickel comprising a second contact area; and a connector that electrically connects to the first contact area and to the second contact area.

Gross et al. teach that multiple electrical components can be connected together using a connector.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form multiple components of Parker et al. in the system of Gross et al. wherein a connector connects first and second contact areas of the components, since such a modification would form a printed circuit board having electrolytic components comprising terminals with good solderability.

Regarding claim 19, the modified Parker et al. disclose the first electrical component comprises a third electrical connection, the third electrical connection comprising aluminum and a third layer of nickel on top of the aluminum, the third layer of nickel comprising a third contact area; the second electrical component comprises a fourth electrical connection, the fourth electrical connection comprising aluminum and a fourth layer of nickel on top of the aluminum, the fourth layer of nickel comprising a fourth contact area; and the connector electrically connects to the third contact area and to the fourth contact area.

Regarding claim 20, Gross et al. teaches that the connector comprises electrically conductive strip connectors of a printed circuit board.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Thomas whose telephone number is 571-272-1985. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 6:30 AM - 3:45 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on 571-272-1984. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ewt

 6-22-07
Eric Thomas
Primary Examiner
AU 2831